



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



*“You Didn't Choose Me,
I Chose You!”*

September 24, 2017

10:30 Service of the Word

God doesn't wait for us to make an application for acceptance into the kingdom of heaven, God chooses us. Think of any major character in the Bible: Abraham and Sarah, Jacob and Rachel, David and Bathsheba, Peter, Paul and Mary. Did any choose God? No, God choose them. And God chooses you.

-from Working Preacher.org, “Preaching the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation”

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Nursery care is available during the service. Please see one of the ushers if you need more information.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Source of all life,

C: we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We still fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by your will, willing to speak for what is right and work for what is just. Amen.

P: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven and God continues to work in us. God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life
(For music turn to Hymn 816 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Come, my way, my truth, my life:**

Such a way as gives us breath;

Such a truth as ends all strife;

Such a life as killeth death.

2. **Come, my light, my feast, my strength:**

Such a light as shows a feast;

Such a feast as mends in length;

Such a strength as makes his guest.

3. **Come, my joy, my love, my heart:**

Such a joy as none can move;

Such a love as none can part;

such a heart as joys in love.

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Gathering Dialog (Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8)

A: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

A: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

A: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Genesis 12:1-3

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 139: 13-18 (Read responsively)

A: You created every part of me,
knitting me in my mother’s womb.

C: For such handiwork, I praise you.

Awesome this great wonder!

I see it clearly!

A: You watched every bone
taking shape in secret,
forming in the hidden depths.

**C: You saw my body grow
according to your design.
You recorded all my days
before they began.**

A: How deep are your thoughts!
How vast their sum!

**C: like countless grains of sand,
well beyond my grasp.**

Second Reading Romans 9:16-24

[Paul writes] So it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God who shows mercy. ¹⁷For the scripture says to Pharaoh, “I have raised you up for the very purpose of showing my power in you, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.” ¹⁸So then he has mercy on whomever he chooses, and he hardens the heart of whomever he chooses. ¹⁹You will say to me then, “Why then does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” ²⁰But who indeed are you, a human being, to argue with God? Will what is molded say to the one who molds it, “Why have you made me like this?” ²¹Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one object for special use and another for ordinary use? ²²What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience the objects of wrath that are made for destruction; ²³and what if he has done so in order to make known the riches of his glory for the objects of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— ²⁴including us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (John 15:16)

**C: Alleluia. I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.
Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading John 15:12-16

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day If You But Trust in God to Guide You

(For music see Hymn 769 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **If you but trust in God to guide you
with gentle hand through all your ways,
you’ll find that God is there beside you
when crosses come, in trying days.
Trust then in God’s unchanging love;
build on the rock that will not move.**

2. **What gain is there in anxious weeping,
in helpless anger and distress?
If you are in your Savior’s keeping,
in sorrow will he love you less?
For Christ who took for you a cross
will bring you safe through ev’ry loss.**

3. **The Lord our restless hearts is holding,
in peace and quietness content.
We rest in God's good will unfolding,
what wisdom from on high has sent.
God, who had chosen us by grace,
knows very well the fears we face.**
4. **Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving,
offer your service faithfully.
Trust heaven's word; though undeserving,
you'll find God's promise true to be.
This is our confidence indeed:
God never fails in time of need.**

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. composite. Music: Georg Neumark, Text copyright 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Apostles' Creed

A: We confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,

*The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.***

The pastor concludes the prayer:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

A: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

† THANKSGIVING †

Offering & Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving As the offering is brought forward the congregation sings:

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your Word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard,
break the stone away.
When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost,
lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray: God of life,

C: you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

A: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn We are a Chosen People of God
For music please turn to Hymn 79 in the Songbook binder

Refrain

**We are a chosen people of God;
called into light and gathered in love;
redeemed and held by the holy one.
We are a chosen people of God.**

**1. Look around you and see
people in your neighborhood;
endless variety
God has created good.
We're a part of it all, chosen and called. *Refrain***

**2. Look around you and see
the blessing given us;
earth, sky, and sea;
they're all placed in our trust.
We're a part of it all, chosen and called. *Refrain***

**3. Look around you and see
not all is going right.
In this mystery;
We're called to be a light.
We're a part of it all, chosen and called. *Refrain***

Text and music: David Lee Brown, Larry Olson, Karol Baer; copyright 1990 Dakota Road Music, used by permission

Dismissal

**A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: God's Work. Our Hands.**

SO, I'M AN
HEIR OF
GOD...



www.agulusthink.com

YES!



AND THOUGH YOU MIGHT
SUFFER NOW, THE
PROMISE OF YOUR
INHERITANCE ALLOWS
YOU TO LIVE IN
PATIENCE & HOPE.



WHAT?

I JUST HAD A VISION
OF GOD IN A WINNE-
BAGO WITH A BUMPER-
STICKER THAT SAYS
"I'M SPENDING MY
CHILDREN'S
INHERITANCE."



G. VETZSTEIN 2017

ROMANS 8:12-25

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Jack and Pat Hortop
Acolyte	Olivia DeLeon
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	Bruce Boncke and Art Fields
Coffee Hour	Cassie Ross

Worship assistants for next Sunday, October 1

Greeters and Ushers	Nancy and Ivan Shuler
Acolyte	Molly Perdan
Altar Care	Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistants	Gary Boisseau and Rob Stroup
Nursery Care	Laura Stroup
Counters	Beth Perdan and Bettina Kalish
Coffee Hour	<i>Please sign up!</i>

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